



US005181638A

**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,181,638****McHale**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 26, 1993**[54] **BACKPACK WITH INDEPENDENTLY  
ADJUSTABLE STABILIZING STRAPS AND  
SHOULDER PADS**[76] **Inventor:** **Daniel M. McHale**, 3431 12th Ave.  
W., Seattle, Wash. 98119[21] **Appl. No.:** **806,101**[22] **Filed:** **Dec. 9, 1991**[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup>** ..... **A45F 3/04**[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **224/215; 224/209;**  
224/211; 224/259; 224/262; 224/264[58] **Field of Search** ..... 224/150, 153, 202, 209,  
224/210, 211, 212, 215, 216, 257, 258, 259, 260,  
261, 262, 263, 264; 206/315.3, 315.11[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

2,461,526	2/1949	Cull et al.	224/209
3,282,483	11/1966	Babcock	224/264 X
3,885,722	5/1975	Robertson	224/264 X
3,921,867	11/1975	Farnbach	224/262
4,420,103	12/1983	Douglass	224/210
4,676,418	6/1987	Lowe	224/215
4,883,207	11/1989	McArthur	224/153
5,012,964	5/1991	Falletta et al.	224/209 X
5,114,059	5/1992	Thatcher	224/209

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

166788 7/1954 Australia ..... 224/259

9105493 5/1991 World Int. Prop. O. .... 224/215

*Primary Examiner*—Allan N. Shoap*Assistant Examiner*—Stephen Cronin*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Russell W. Illich

[57]

**ABSTRACT**

An improved strap assembly is provided for use with a backpack for allowing the independent adjustment of the stabilizing straps and shoulder pads of a backpack. The strap assembly includes a pair of shoulder pads anchored at one end to the backpack and at the opposite end to a pair of first adjustment buckles. A shoulder pad adjustment strap is also threaded through the first buckle and is anchored at the lower end of the backpack. A second pair of adjustment buckles are attached at the upper end of the backpack and have a pair of stabilizing straps threaded therethrough. The stabilizing straps slide freely through cross straps upon the shoulder pads and also slide freely through a widened opening within the first adjustment buckles. Each stabilizing strap is anchored at the lower end of the backpack adjacent the anchorage of the shoulder pad adjustment strap to the backpack. The ability of the stabilizing strap to slide freely relative to the shoulder pad allows for independent adjustment of either the shoulder pad adjustment strap or the stabilizing strap without adverse affect upon the adjustment of the other strap.

**8 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**